

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13320 051652Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00
DODE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 PA-01
PRS-01 USIE-00 MC-02 TRSE-00 /097 W
-----051655Z 019261 /43

O R 051659Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2500
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
ERDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

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ERDA WASHDC FOR A. GIAMBUSSO AND S. CIANELLA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: FRANCE ANNOUNCES PEACEFUL URANIUM ENRICHMENT
PROCESS
1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FOLLOWING MEETING OF FRANCE'S
INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT
GISCARD, FRANCE'S CEA (ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION) HEAD
GIRAUD ANNOUNCED THAT FRANCE HAS DEVELOPED PROCESS FOR
URANIUM ENRICHMENT WHICH MAKES MATERIAL SUITABLE ONLY
FOR NUCLEAR PLANTS FOR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY WITH
NO DANGER OF THE USE OF THIS MATERIAL FOR ATOMIC
WEAPONS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THIS PROCESS WAS ALREADY
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MENTIONED BRIEFLY IN DISCUSSIONS AT IAEA'S CONFERENCE
AT SALZBURG. THE INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS
ANNOUNCEMENT IS GEARED TO OBTAINING FAVORABLE PUBLICITY,
AND IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT A REAL BREAKTHROUGH HAS
JUST BEEN ACHIEVED. HOWEVER, CEA IS SPONSORING A
SIZEABLE ENRICHMENT R&D EFFORT, AND WE SHALL ENDEAVOR
TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANCE'S COUNCIL FOR EXTERNAL NUCLEAR POLICY WAS CREATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1976, ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. ITS FOURTH MEETING, ON MAY 5, WAS VEHICLE FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY FRANCE'S CEA (COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE) DIRECTOR ANDRE GIRAUD THAT FRANCE HAS DEVELOPED PROCESS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PRODUCING MATERIAL WHICH CAN BE USED ONLY IN PLANTS FOR THE NUCLEAR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY AND WHICH CANNOT BE USED IN ATOMIC WEAPONS. URANIUM USED HERE IS ONLY LIGHTLY ENRICHED (FAIBLEMENT ENRICHI) AND NOT HIGHLY ENRICHED (HAUTEMENT ENRICHI). THIS PROCESS, ACCORDING TO GIRAUD, IS THE RESULT OF SEVERAL YEARS OF WORK. HE WILL FURNISH MORE DETAILS AND DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THIS FRIDAY, MAY 6, AT THE IAEA CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG.

3. AFP ANNOUNCEMENT OF FRANCE'S NUCLEAR COMMITTEE MEETING EMPHASIZED FRENCH DETERMINATION NOT TO FAVOR THE PROLIFERATION OF ATOMIC WEAPONS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CARRYING OUT AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR POLICY RESPONSIVE TO FRANCE'S ENERGY NEEDS.

4. INITIAL REACTION: IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE DATA EMBASSY CONFINES ITS COMMENTS FOR THE MOMENT TO THE OBSERVATION THAT THE GOF APPEARS ANXIOUS TO GET CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC RELATIONS MILEAGE OUT OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. IT IS NOTED THAT A PAPER ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 13320 051652Z

PRESENTED AT SALZBURG BY CEA CHEMISTRY DIVISION DIRECTOR FREJACQUES MENTIONED AN R&D ENRICHMENT EFFORT ON CHEMICAL EXCHANGE PROCESSES TO WHICH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS TO REFER, AMONG OTHER ENRICHMENT WORK. (EMBOFF, INQUIRING AT CEA CONCERNING THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE, WAS REFERRED TO THIS 'PAPER.)
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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